

The China Mail.

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HONGKONG, THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 1885.

日三十月一十年甲申

PRICE, \$2 PER MONTH.

AGENTS FOR THE CHINA MAIL.

LONDON.—F. ALGAR, 11 & 12, Clements Lane, Lombard Street, E.C. GEORGE STREET & Co., 30, Cornhill, GEORGE STREET & Co., 37, Wallbrook, E.C. SAMUEL DRAGON & Co., 100 & 104, Leadenhall Street.
PARIS AND EUROPE.—GALLIN & PRINCE, 36, Rue Lafayette, Paris.
NEW YORK.—ANDREW WIND, 21, Park Row.
AUSTRALIA, TASMANIA, AND NEW ZEALAND.—GORDON & GOTH, Melbourne and Sydney.
SAN FRANCISCO and American Ports generally.—BEAN & BLACK, San Francisco.
SINGAPORE, STRAITS, &c.—SAYEE & Co., Singapore. O. HEINEKEN & Co., Manila.
CHINA.—MACAO, MESSRS A. A. DE MELO & Co., SMOULDS, QUELON & Co., AMOY, WILSON, NICHOLSON & Co., POONCH, HEDON & Co., SHANGHAI, LANE, CRAWFORD & Co., and KELLY & WALSH, Yokohama, LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

Banks.

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL, \$7,500,000
RESERVE FUND, \$4,400,000
RESERVE FOR EQUALIZATION, \$400,000
OF DIVIDENDS, \$400,000
RESERVE LIABILITY OF PROPRIETORS, \$7,500,000

COURT OF DIRECTORS.
Chairman—A. F. McLEWEN, Esq.
Deputy Chairman—Hon. F. D. SASSOON.
C. D. BOUTWELL, M. GROVE, Esq.
H. L. DALRYMPLE, Esq.
W. H. FORBES, Esq.
H. L. DALRYMPLE, Esq.
W. H. FORBES, Esq.

CHIEF MANAGER.
Hongkong, THOMAS JACKSON, Esq.
SHANGHAI, EMMET CAMERON, Esq.
LONDON BANKERS.—London and County Bank.

HONGKONG.

INTEREST ALLOWED.
ON Current Deposit Account at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum on the daily balance.
For Fixed Deposits:—
For 3 months, 3 per cent. per annum.
" 6 " 4 " " "
" 12 " 5 " " "

LOCAL BUSI DISCOUNTED.
Credits granted on approved Securities, and every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.
Drafts granted on London, and the chief Commercial places in Europe, India, Australia, America, China and Japan.
T. JACKSON, Chief Manager.
Hongkong, August 25, 1884. 1423

NOTICE.

RULES OF THE HONGKONG SAVINGS' BANK.

- 1.—The business of the above Bank will be conducted by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, on their premises in Hongkong. Business hours on week-days, 10 to 3; Saturdays, 10 to 1.
- 2.—The Assets of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation will form a direct security for the repayment of sums deposited in the above Bank.
- 3.—Sums less than \$1, or more than \$250 at one time will not be received. No depositor may deposit more than \$1,500 in any one year.
- 4.—Deposits may be on behalf of relations, of trusts, &c., in addition to the depositor's own account.
- 5.—Persons desirous of saving sums less than a dollar may do so by affixing clean ten-cent stamps to a form to be obtained at the Bank or at the Post Office. When the form is presented with ten clean stamps the depositor will be credited one dollar.
- 6.—Depositors in the Savings' Bank having \$100 or more at their credit may at their option transfer the same to the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation on fixed deposit for 12 months at 5 per cent. per annum interest.
- 7.—Deposits may be forwarded from the Post by means of clean Hongkong Postage Stamps of any value.
- 8.—Interest at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum will be allowed to depositors on their daily balances.
- 9.—Each Depositor will be supplied gratis with a Pass-Book which must be presented with each payment or withdrawal. Depositors must not make any entries themselves in their Pass-Books but should send them to be written up at least twice a year, about the beginning of January and beginning of July.
- 10.—Covers containing Pass-Books, Registered Letters containing Stamps or other Remittances, and generally, correspondences as to the business of the Bank will, if marked on Hongkong Savings' Bank Business, be forwarded free of Postage or Registration Fees by the various British Post Offices in Hongkong and China.
- 11.—Withdrawals may be made on demand, but the personal attendance of the depositor or his duly appointed agent, and the production of his Pass-Book are necessary.
- 12.—All documents connected with the business of the Savings' Bank are exempt from stamp duty.

For the HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION, T. JACKSON, Chief Manager.
Hongkong, April 25, 1884. 715

WITH Reference to the above, BUSINESS will be commenced on the 1st MAY, 1884.

For the HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION, T. JACKSON, Chief Manager.
Hongkong, April 25, 1884. 716

Bank.

THE NEW ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in London on 18th July, 1884, under the Companies Act 1862, to 1883.)

LONDON BANKERS:
UNION BANK OF LONDON, Ltd.
BANK OF SCOTLAND, LONDON.

RATES OF INTEREST ALLOWED ON DEPOSITS.
At 3 months' notice 3 1/2 per Annum.
" 6 " " 4 " "
" 12 " " 5 " "

Current Accounts kept on Terms which may be learnt on application.

J. MELVILLE MATSON, Manager.
Hongkong, September 15, 1884. 1556

Notices of Firms.

NOTICE.

THE INTEREST AND RESPONSIBILITY OF MR. FREDERICO DELANO HITCH in our Firm in Hongkong, China and elsewhere CEASED on the 30th June last.

RUSSELL & Co.
China, 1st January, 1885. 14

NOTICE.

THE PARTNERSHIP heretofore existing between the Undersigned CRANES This Day by Mutual Consent, and with this Notice the Firm of HUGHES & LEGG is DISSOLVED.

WILLIAM LEGGIE, E. JONES HUGHES.
Hongkong, January 1, 1885. 12

NOTICE.

REFERRING to the Notice of the DISSOLUTION of the Firm of HUGHES & LEGG, I will Continue the BUSINESS of SHARE AND GENERAL BROKER in my own Name from this date.

WILLIAM LEGGIE.
Hongkong, January 1, 1885. 13

NOTICE.

OWING to the DISSOLUTION of the Firm of HUGHES & LEGG, I will Continue the BUSINESS of SHARE AND GENERAL BROKER and ATTORNEY in my own Name from this date.

E. JONES HUGHES.
Hongkong, January 1, 1885. 9

NOTICE.

THE INTEREST AND RESPONSIBILITY OF the late MR. ARTHUR SMITH in our Firm at Canton and Foochow CEASED on 22nd August, 1884.

BIRLEY & Co.
Canton, 1st January, 1885. 10

Intimations.

NOTICE.

THE MITSU BISHI MAIL S.S. Co. having taken over the NAGASAKI DOCK, SLIP and ENGINEERING WORKS, are now prepared to DOCK and REPAIR VESSELS, at moderate terms.

The DOCK is one of the largest and best in the East, being 431 feet long and 89 feet broad, and having a depth of water on blocks at spring tides of 27 feet and on neap tides 25 feet.

The SHIPS contain Machine-tools of all descriptions and compound Engines up to 1,000 horse-power. The heaviest class of work can be undertaken at the shortest notice.

Powerful lifting SHEARS are being erected.

For further Particulars, apply to H. J. H. TRIPP, Agent.
Hongkong, December 15, 1884. 2135

NOTICE.

ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION IN LIQUIDATION.

ALL HOLDERS OF NOTES OF THE ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION (HONGKONG BRANCH), are hereby requested to present them to the Liquidators of the Bank, when they will be given in Exchange, a certificate of the value of the Notes as shown in the following Table.

Holders of Notes will be required to furnish to the Liquidators of the Bank, a schedule in duplicate, giving the date of Issue, Number and Amount of each Note produced of Schedule may be had on application at the OFFICE of the ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION, Queen's Road, Hongkong.

For the OFFICIAL LIQUIDATOR OF THE ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION, By his Attorneys, J. MELVILLE MATSON, H. HOWARD TAYLOR.
Hongkong, August 2, 1884. 1235

WILLIAM DOLAN, SAIL-MAKER & SHIP-CHANDLER, 22, PRATY CENTRAL.

COTTON DUCKS, HEMP CANYAS, MANILA ROPE, AMERICAN OAKUM, LIFE BUOYS, CORK JACKETS, &c., &c., &c.
Hongkong, May 1, 1882. 256

CHINA SUGAR REFINING COMPANY, LIMITED.
DEBENTURE LOAN FOR \$140,000.

COUPONS for INTEREST falling due on 31st December, 1884, will be Paid on Presentation at the Office of the HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION, Hongkong, on and after that date.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., General Agents.
Hongkong, December 31, 1884. 17

For Sale.

NEW GOODS.

CHILDREN'S PAINT BOXES.

New MATHEMATICAL INSTRUMENTS.

PATENT GLASS BUTTERS.

NEE'S KNIFE-CLEANING MACHINE.

New CHAMPAGNE NIPPERS.

RODGER'S POCKET KNIVES AND SCISSORS.

POST-OFFICE LETTER SCALES.

CHUBB'S LOCKS AND BOXES.

OPERA AND FIELD GLASSES.

LADIES' "WALDECK" WATER-PROOF CLOAKS.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

Hongkong, January 7, 1885. 36

EX STEAMSHIP GLENCOE.

LADIES' BLACK SPUN SILK JERSEYS.

LADIES' BLACK SILK JERSEY GLOVES.

LADIES' LIGHT COLOURED SILK JERSEY GLOVES.

BLACK SPANISH LACE FLOUNCING for Evening Dresses, 30 inches wide.

LADIES' BLACK LISLE THREAD HOSE.

A few NOVELTIES in LADIES' EVENING SHOES.

BLACK AND COLOURED RIBBONS, all widths.

Best Quality EAU DE COLOGNE.

GENTLEMEN'S TENNIS SHOES, all sizes.

GENTLEMEN'S CAMBROS AND WHITE KID GLOVES, 2 Buttons.

N.B.—The Princess Kid Gloves for Gentlemen are a speciality for evening wear.

In accordance with the usual custom our Store will be CLOSED on New Year's Day.

W. POWELL & Co.

Hongkong, December 29, 1884. 2101

ROBERT LANG & Co.,

Tailors, Hatters, Shirtmakers & General Outfitters,

QUEEN'S ROAD (OPPOSITE HONGKONG HOTEL).

HONGKONG, JANUARY 6, 1885. 33

HATS.

A large assortment of Christy's Felt Hats, always in Stock in all the newest styles.

CLOTHING.

Tweeds, Coatings, Trouserings, Serges, Flannels.

SHIRTS.

Having completed our arrangements we can now make to order White Dress Shirts, equal to home manufacture.

HOSIERY, SCARFS, TIES, HANDKERCHIEFS,

BOOTS AND SHOES.

Hongkong, January 6, 1885. 33

Intimations.

NOTICE.

HONGKONG STEAM LAUNDRY COMPANY, LIMITED.

IN Accordance with Clauses 47 and 99 of the Company's Articles of Association, an EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS to be held at the HONGKONG HOTEL, is hereby Convened for TUESDAY, the 13th Instant, at 3 o'clock p.m., when a full attendance is requested.

By Order, WILLIAM LEGGIE, Acting Secretary.
Hongkong, January 2, 1885. 11

Intimations.

NOTICE.

LOST, on the Evening of ST. GEORGE'S BALL, A NEW ULSTER COAT (dark cloth). Any information regarding above will be thankfully received by Owner.

Apply China Mail Office.
Hongkong, January 2, 1885. 6

Intimations.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

SHAREHOLDERS in the COMPANIA NAVIERA DE FILIPINAS OF MANILA are requested to communicate with the Undersigned.

DUNN, MELBYE & Co.
Hongkong, December 13, 1884. 2100

Intimations.

TO LET.

'COLLEGE CHAMBERS' (late HOTEL ST. GEORGE'S) Single Rooms or Suites of Apartments, No. 4 and 18, HOLLYWOOD ROAD, No. 25A, PRATY CENTRAL, No. 44, GRAYSON STREET.

Apply to DAVID SASSOON, SONS & Co.
Hongkong, December 24, 1884. 2165

Intimations.

STORAGE.

GOODS RECEIVED ON STORAGE in Commodious and well ventilated GODOWNS on his New Premises in DUNDRELL STREET, next to the ORIENTAL BANK.

G. R. LAMMERT.
Hongkong, December 27, 1884. 2178

Intimations.

TO LET.

THE DWELLING HOUSE, No. 3A, CAINE ROAD. Possession from 1st January, 1885.

Apply to DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & Co.
Hongkong, December 23, 1884. 2164

For Sale.

FOR SALE.

MINNEVA-BRUNNEN.

DELICIOUS NATURAL MINERAL WATER in Cases of 96 Pints @ \$7.00. do. 48 Quarts @ \$6.00.

Apply to RUSSELL & Co.
Hongkong, November 10, 1884. 1697

For Sale.

FOR SALE.

BOROUGHES & WATTS' SOLID MARGANY BILIARD TABLE.

Complete with CUES, POOL, PYRAMID, &c., BALLS, MARKING BOARD, RESTS, EXTRA CUES, &c., &c.

Just arrived per Glenloch.
LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.
Hongkong, November 4, 1884. 1565

For Sale.

SEE WOO.

TAILOR, DRAPER & OUTFITTER, No. 55, Queen's Road Central, Hongkong.

HAS NOW LANDING, FOR SALE:

ALL Kinds of AUTUMN and WINTER WOOLLEN CLOTHES.

DAMASK, REP, and ORTONNES for Curtains and Covering Furniture.

CURTAIN'S Gentlemen's New Zephyr Black, Drab, and Brown FELT HATS.

All Sorts of Fancy and Black SILK SCARVES, TIES, White DRESS TIES.

WOOLLEN WRAPPERS, Coloured and White KID GLOVES.

WOOLLEN and MERINO UNDER SUITS and SOCKS.

White TABLE CLOTHS, NAPKINS, SILK & CAMBRIC HANDKERCHIEFS, and TOWELS.

Best Kinds of TOILET PERFUMES and SOAPS.

DAWSON'S BOOTS, SHOOTING BOOTS, SHOES and TENNIS SHOES, &c., &c.

AT LOW PRICES.

Hongkong, October 26, 1884. 1806

For Sale.

COURSE, DISTANCE, AND AVERAGE SPEED TABLES,

TO LONDON, VIA THE SUEZ CANAL, TO INDIA, CHINA, JAPAN, &c., WITH VARIOUS OTHER TABLES AND NOTES.

W. A. GULLAND.

To be obtained at the 'CHINA MAIL' OFFICE.

Messrs. LANE, CRAWFORD & Co., CALCUTTA & Co.

Hongkong, September 2, 1884. 1475

For Sale.

EXTRA FINE QUALITY FRENCH BUTTER,

BRAND 'DUC DE NORMANDIE,'—THE OLDEST BUTTER PACKING ESTABLISHMENT IN NORMANDY.

IN 1 lb tins and Cases of 48 tins each. Sold in Quantities of not less than one dozen tins, at \$6 per Dozen.

Reduction made to Purchasers of one case and upwards.

G. R. LAMMERT, Sole Agent.

Hongkong, October 4, 1884. 1683

For Sale.

JULES MUMM & Co.'s CHAMPAGNE,

Quarts @ \$20 per Case of 1 doz. Pints @ \$21 " " 2 " "

Dubos Freres & Co. of Gernon & Co.'s BORDEAUX CLARETS and WHITE WINES.

Baxter's Celebrated 'Barley Bree' WHISKY, \$7 1/2 per Case of 1 doz. GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.

Hongkong, July 16, 1884. 1187

For Sale.

PUBLICATIONS BY J. DYER BALL.

'CANTONESE MADE EASY'—A Book of SIMPLE SENTENCES in the CANTONESE COLOQUIAL with Free and Literal Translations; and Directions for Rendering English Grammatical Forms into Chinese and vice versa.—Price, \$2. Interleaved Copies, \$2.50.

'We most cordially recommend it.'—China Review. 'Will be found to supply a want long felt by students of Cantonese.'—Daily Press. 'Mr. Ball's Notes on Cantonese and Grammar will be found very valuable.'—China Mail.

'EASY SENTENCES in the HAKKA DIALECT with a VOCABULARY.'—Price, \$1.

'The Sentences given appear to be well arranged.'—China Mail. 'Contains a wide range of subjects.'—Chinese Recorder, &c. 'An extensive Vocabulary.'—Daily Press.

FOR SALE at MESSRS. KELLY & WALSH'S, W. BROWNE'S, and LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.'s, Hongkong; and at MESSRS. TADDER & Co.'s, London.

Hongkong, January 23, 1884. 143

Notices to Consignees.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

FROM CALCUTTA, PENANG AND SINGAPORE.

THE S.S. Arratoon Apar having arrived from the above Ports, Consignees of Cargo are hereby requested to send in their Bills of Lading to the Undersigned for countersignature, and to take immediate delivery of their Goods from alongside.

Cargo impeding discharge will be at once landed and stored at Consignees' risk and expense.

Consignees are hereby informed that all Claims must be made immediately, as none will be entertained after the 13th Instant.

DAVID SASSOON, SONS & Co., Agents.
Hongkong, January 5, 1885. 30

Shipping.

INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

FROM CALCUTTA, PENANG AND SINGAPORE.

THE Company's S.S. Takung having arrived from the above Ports, Consignees of Cargo are hereby requested to send in their Bills of Lading to the Undersigned for countersignature, and to take immediate delivery of their Goods.

Cargo impeding the discharge will be at once landed and stored at Consignees' risk and expense.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., General Managers.
Hongkong, January 3, 1885. 21

Shipping.

Steamers.

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW.

The Co.'s Steamship Tokien, Capt. Westoby, will be despatched for the above Port on FRIDAY, the 9th Instant, at Daylight.

For Freight or Passage, apply to DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & Co., General Managers.
Hongkong, January 7, 1885. 35

FOR SHANGHAI.

The Co.'s Steamship Kiangning, Capt. JACKSON, will be despatched for the above Port on SATURDAY, the 10th Instant, at 5 p.m.

For Freight or Passage, apply to JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., General Managers.
Hongkong, January 5, 1885. 23

FOR MANILA (DIRECT).

The Spanish Steamer Envy, Capt. JACKSON, will be despatched for the above Port on SATURDAY, the 10th Instant, at 5 p.m.

For Freight or Passage, apply to REMEDIOS & Co.
Hongkong, January 5, 1885. 29

OCEAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

FOR LONDON VIA SUEZ CANAL.

The Co.'s Steamship A. Horner, Capt. BATT, will be despatched as above on SATURDAY, the 10th January.

The Chief Justice said that he did not see how leave to appeal to the Council could be granted, as no appeal could be made to the Council when the amount in dispute was less than \$200. In this case the amount was only \$170.

Considerable discussion took place on this point. Mr. Francis argued that though the amount awarded was only \$170, the defendant's claim was really for over \$200, and that must be taken as the subject matter of the appeal. He submitted that the clause in the rules and regulations regarding appeals to the Privy Council which read "the general subject matter of the suit shall not be of less value than \$200," meant the amount which was claimed, not the sum which might be awarded in a verdict. The question at issue in the defendant's claim involved a considerable amount more than \$200.

The Attorney General argued that the amount in dispute was really the amount awarded by the Court.

The Chief Justice said the jury had found there was due on the counter claim a sum of \$170. The question was as to whether the defendant could claim more than that. \$200, mentioned in the agreement, was allowed to stand, and the Court found that the damages should be so reduced. Therefore the Court found that defendant was due plaintiffs the sum of \$230, and it seemed to him that that was really the amount in dispute.

After some further argument, during which Mr. Francis cited one or two cases which he said had a bearing on the point, the Chief Justice said he should be guided by the law, and he could not see how he was to do so, as the law was not clear. He said that there had never been any case exactly like this case tried before. He certainly struck out new ground altogether; the question had never been considered in any case he had ever seen. Their Lordships would look over the authorities, and if they could possibly do so they would be happy to give defendant leave to appeal.

STEVENS AND ANOTHER v. BURNELL AND OTHERS.—APPEAL.

This was an *ex parte* motion by the defendants, who were represented by the Attorney General and Mr. A. G. Wise, instructed by Messrs. Brereton, Wotton and Deacon.

The Attorney General said this case was tried before His Lordship the Chief Justice on the 19th December, when a verdict was given for the plaintiffs for \$10,000, and the motion he had now to make was for a rule calling upon the plaintiffs to show cause why the verdict should not be varied, by reducing the damages allowed plaintiffs to \$7,000, on the ground that the verdict was against the admitted evidence. The action, he said, was brought by the plaintiffs against Messrs. Burnell as the owners of a ship called the *Mungrigian*, which was chartered by the plaintiffs for a year, the charter being renewable for another year. The action was brought upon a charter party of the ship to answer to certain descriptions as to capacity and speed, contained in the charter party. Two issues were before the Court at the trial, first whether or not the ship answered to the representation that was made as to her capacity, and secondly as to her guaranteed speed. As to the speed there was no question that it was guaranteed by the charter, and the jury, by a majority of five to two, found the ship did not come up to the guarantee, and they gave a verdict of \$3,000 with regard to that. The jury also found that she did not come up to the representations as to capacity contained in the charter, and they found the damages \$7,000 on this account. It was on this part of the verdict that the appeal was made, and the question was whether or not the ship answered to the representation that was made as to her capacity, and secondly as to her guaranteed speed. As to the speed there was no question that it was guaranteed by the charter, and the jury, by a majority of five to two, found the ship did not come up to the guarantee, and they gave a verdict of \$3,000 with regard to that. The jury also found that she did not come up to the representations as to capacity contained in the charter, and they found the damages \$7,000 on this account. It was on this part of the verdict that the appeal was made, and the question was whether or not the ship answered to the representation that was made as to her capacity, and secondly as to her guaranteed speed.

It became advantageous in the meantime to explore Lang-son, where, since 1878, regular Chinese troops had been found, upon the demand of the Court of Hue, in spite of the treaties of 1874, had crossed the frontier under the pretext of reducing the rebel band commanded by the pretender Li-Yung-Choi, and who had, moreover, invaded part of the province of Bao-ninh, and occupied the country from the Ba-Be lakes to Song-Tayoung.

After the defeat of Li-Yung-Choi's troops by the regulars of General Phung-tai, the deputation of Li at Canton, one of his subordinates, Lue-Chi-Binh, resumed the campaign, but without a success, and the country again became tranquil. The Chinese regulars remained nevertheless encamped on the Annamite territory, where they continued to live in a conquered country, giving their orders to the provincial mandarins and governing those to whom they were supposed to have come to render disinterested assistance.

It appeared to me then to be most interesting, particularly at a moment when the idea of our extension in Tong-King was beginning to take form in France; to see if such a state of things as had been reported to us existed, and upon my demand, M. de Gerard, French consul at Hanoi, obtained from the mandarins of that locality an official passport authorizing me to proceed to Lang-son by Bao-ninh, on horseback, with an interpreter and some coolies for the transport of my baggage.

It was not without difficulty that this passport was obtained for me. The Governor of Hanoi (Tong-doo) drew, for my benefit, a horrible picture of the route which I proposed to follow. It was not, he pretended, with the view of opposing my journey that he pointed out the dangers to which I was about to expose myself, but he wished me to consider well before undertaking it, for the roads were very bad after Bao-ninh, full of tigers and thieves, the unwholesome water occasioned fevers to the natives which a European could not withstand; he knew the country well, having passed through it himself, &c.

I was very little affected by the fears for my health which were felt by this dignified official, and to his great disgust, he was obliged to deliver me my passport, which I received on the 4th July.

I left Hanoi the following day at noon with the Chinese interpreter of the Consulate and some Annamite soldiers whom the Governor charged to accompany me as far as Bao-ninh, where I should find a fresh escort to conduct me to Lang-son.

I arrived at Bao-ninh the next morning after having covered in six hours' marching the 35 kilometers which separate that city from Hanoi.

This part of the route, which I had already traversed the previous year with M. Cabannes, lieutenant d'infanterie de marine, presents no natural difficulties. The only obstacle is occasioned by the passage of the *Canal des Rapides* (Song Chi), which is easily crossed, with horses

and baggage, in a junk. The point where the stream intersects the road is about one hour and a half's march from Hanoi. From the Canal to Bao-ninh no other body of water is met with, but the road is cut by two dikes which serve as fortifications.

About midway is found the prefecture of Phu-tu-son, built on either side of the road. At the entrance is found the dwelling of the prefect (Quan-phu) consisting of a compound enclosed within mud walls bordered with bamboo. Inside the walls are some bamboo cabins for the guards and a brick and tile house for the Quan-phu. There are no cannon in the enclosure and the armament of the soldiers only comprises spears, swords, and some old flint lock guns.

From Phu-tu-son to the citadel a number of comfortable looking and pleasantly situated villages are met with. The surrounding country is flat and completely covered with rice fields. It is only a short distance from Bao-ninh that one finds the manebans, or detached hills, which enclose the city in spite of their slight elevation and easy ascent.

The city of Bao-ninh, the centre of the large and magnificent province of the same name, is not in itself of great importance in point of local commerce, but it forms a well chosen military post commanding the roads to Thai-Nguyen, Lang-son and Hai-duong.

The citadel forms a regular hexagon. It is constructed of brick, with bastions, but without dentellures like that of Hanoi. The crests of the walls are lined with a *chateau de frise* of bamboo. It possesses about forty pieces of artillery, all smooth bore. The dwellings of the soldiers are outside the citadel, the only troops quartered inside being the guards of the Tong-doo, Governor General of Bao-ninh, Lang-son and Cao-bang, of the Quan-an, or Minister of Justice, and the Quan-bo, or Administrator. Besides the members of the civil administration there are also at Bao-ninh a Do-deo, the general commanding the troops of the province, and a Lam-binh, or local commander.

The citadel is surrounded by a circular road, upon which are situated a quantity of houses, used exclusively as dwellings for the soldiers and their families. All the soldiers were at this time natives; there was not a single Chinese amongst them. In front of the East gate is a large brick building, covered with tiles, which served as a dwelling for mandarins passing through. It is here that foreigners and the mandarins from Hue carrying tribute to the emperor of the Celestial Empire were received.

The principal street in Bao-ninh is occupied by the merchants; principally Chinese. These consist of dealers in medicines, cotton goods, resins and manebans. One important branch of local business is the manufacture of great jars for water and oil and the small round earthenware vessels destined to contain the bones of the dead after exhumation. In one corner of the town almost all the houses are constructed with the refuse of the potteries. The basement is formed of jars which have been mis-formed in the baking. The jars are put close together and filled with earth, forming a substantial wall. The quarter of the town so constructed presents a remarkably quaint aspect.

When I acquainted the Tong-doo of my arrival and of my intention of visiting him at his Yamen he at once sent a reply stating that, not having been informed of my departure from Hanoi, he had made no preparations for my reception but that I could find accommodation in the house of the opium farmer.

Being absolutely certain that this was nothing but a falsehood (as no European could move about the country without being reported), I intended as a first attempt to discourage me, I insisted upon seeing the Governor, with the view of explaining to him the object of my journey, should he be ignorant of it. After a quarter of an hour's waiting and going, I was invited, according to custom, to establish myself at the house for strangers, sufficiently comfortably fitted up for entertainment.

I then went to the citadel to see the Tong-doo. The meeting was cold on both sides, and after explaining the object of my journey, already known to him, the conversation flagged, but I awaited the arrival of the Quan-an and Quan-bo, who were summoned to assist at the interview.

These two functionaries, like those at Hanoi, tried by all imaginable means to persuade me not to extend my explorations. The mountains, the tigers, and the poisoned water were once more presented to me in the darkest colours. I replied that I had taken all necessary precautions concerning the water, of which I had an ample supply, and that as regarded the tigers I was well prepared. They then reminded me of the bandits which infested the road by night and day, but I explained to the Tong-doo that as it was written on my passport that I was to give me a guard of soldiers I could rest tranquilly without fear of the robbers.

Eventually, when it was clearly seen that I was not to be moved from my purpose, the Tong-doo ordered me to be supplied with a guard of ten soldiers, under a Doi, or captain, who were to accompany me to Lang-son, as much probably to watch my movements as to provide for my security.

The 8th July, at 7 o'clock in the morning, I set out for Phu-Lang, accompanied

by ten soldiers from Bao-ninh and ten coolies who had been hired at Hanoi for the whole of the journey. The Governor of Bao-ninh had also given orders to the different posts on the route to furnish me with fresh relays of porters in case of need. This measure proved most useful to me on my return, eight of my men being laid up by the way, more or less suffering from fever.

(To be continued.)

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL'S REPORT FOR 1884.

The following is the complete report of the Postmaster General with the exception of certain items for which we were able to find room last evening:—

GENERAL POST OFFICE, HONGKONG, January 1st, 1885.

Other additions to our Money Order system are in progress. Arrangements are under consideration for the exchange of Money Orders with Portugal, with the United States, and with Hawaii. It is hoped that before the annual Report is presented these changes may be in operation. The Money Order office now pays its own expenses, if indeed it does not secure a small profit. Instructions received as to the presentation of Administrative Reports within the first seven days of the new year have been complied with in every respect.

The subject of a Savings Bank had long been under the consideration of this Department, but the fact that every officer of it is overworked, and that no increase to the staff would be a relief, has been a serious obstacle. At length a plan was submitted for conducting a Savings Bank two days a week in the Stamp Office, which, under the same staff as the Post Office, is happily exempt from the rush of work which is the lot of the Postal service of a Colony.

The usual number of stamps issued well described as "a sort of Clapham Junction." Whilst this plan was under consideration, however, the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank offered to carry on a Savings Bank on terms in many respects more favourable to depositors than those of the Government.

This offer was accepted. Its advantage is that the Bank is open every day, instead of two days a week, and that depositors who have \$100 to credit can at once open a Banking account and increase their deposits accordingly. Against this may be set the fact that the Bank is not secured by the Government, but this would seem to have been no obstacle to the success of a Savings Bank at Shanghai, and need not be here. The Hongkong Savings Bank was opened on May 1st, and already more than \$80,000 have been deposited.

On the 1st March the Post Office of Macao assumed its proper position as a Portuguese Post Office under the Postal Union, the previous irregular arrangement by which it was worked as a kind of honorary Agency under the direction of the Hongkong Post Office being discontinued. The correspondence for this change had been made under the supervision of the present Governor of that Settlement nothing was done in this matter.

There is also moving in the direction of admission into the Postal Union, and it is quite possible that *quid futurum* which has long flitted before the eager eyes of philatelists—a *Crown Postage Stamp*—may ere long become a tangible reality. For years past the Office has been accustomed to receive almost touching appeals for more stamps, when there was about as much possibility of obtaining them as there is of getting the postage stamps (if any) of the moon. Similar applications are sometimes received from the stamps of Kashmir, of Tibet, and of the Himalayas.

Through the co-operation of the Police department arrangements have been completed for signalling the arrival of the English mail from the new Kowloon Police Station at night, and when the weather is cloudy and the signal is obscured. These arrangements have already been most successful, and effectively prevent the serious inconveniences connected with the arrival of an unannounced mail.

Enquiries were set on foot as to whether it would not be possible to have the French mail sorted during the day, and the steamer there, but the practical difficulties were, as before, found to be too many for any hope of success.

On September 9th the P. & O. packet *Erin* arrived here with both the English and French mails. The English mail, however, had been quarantined in Egypt. The mail officer on board had sorted all the letters by both mails, which were ready for delivery five minutes after the bags reached the Post Office. The operation was an hour and a quarter to sort, and the mail was delivered by the English mail, some excitement prevailed amongst the labouring classes of Chinese here, and it was not easy to get the mails on shore, nor to get them brought up to the Post Office. During the last two months the Island of Formosa has been blockaded, and the opportunity of exchanging correspondence here of course been very small.

Considerable numbers of dye and sugar samples have been intercepted during the year in their transit through the post, and destroyed, the attention of the despatching Office being in all cases called to the fact, and the samples being returned to the sender.

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